Adjustments to Pronunciation in Connected Speech - Worksheet

Pronunciation patterns in English often result from the ways that words connect to each other in phrases and sentences. The following rules are taken from Teaching Pronunciation, Celce-Murcia, M; Brinton, D.M.; Goodwin, J.M., Cambridge University Press, 1996. They represent some examples of the consequences of specific combinations of sounds in connected speech that can alter the expected pronunciation patterns of individual words learned in isolation.

Exercise:
Based on the following rules, underline the places in the song lyric on the following page where you think pronunciation adjustments are likely to occur.

Linking consonant to vowel

Rule 1 When a word ends in two consonants and the next begins with a vowel, the final consonant sounds like it is the initial consonant of the following word:
Send it sounds like sen·dit
Camp out sounds like cam·pout

Rule 2 When a word ends in a single consonant and the next begins with a vowel, the consonant straddles the two syllables:
Push up
Stop it
Come in
Take off

Linking vowel to vowel

Rule 3 When a word ending in /iy/, /ey/, /ay/, or /ɔ/ is followed by another word beginning with a vowel, the two words are connected by a /y/ glide:
Be a sport
Play a game
Tie it up
Employ a professional

Rule 4 When a word ending in /uw/, /ow/, or /aw/ is followed by another word beginning with a vowel, the two words are connected by a /w/ glide.
through it all
slow and steady
How are you?

Linking consonant to consonant

Rule 5 When a stop is followed by another stop or affricate, the first stop is not released or aspirated:
Hot dog
Back door
Bad judgment
Sick child

Rule 6 If the consonants (whether a stop or not) are identical, the consonant is somewhat lengthened. The two consonants are not articulated separately:
Keep practicing
less serious
hot tea
common names

Deletion of consonant

Rule 7 The final /d/ or /t/ disappears from a consonant cluster at the end of a word when followed by a word that begins with a consonant.1
East side
blind man
wild boar

Based on the rules from the previous page, underline the places in the song lyric where you think pronunciation adjustments are likely to occur.

1 Per Celce-Murcia et al: “...when the second word begins with /w, h, y, r/, no deletion occurs...[and] some consonant clusters with final /t/ or /d/ never simplify: /nt, rt, rd/...”
California Dreamin’²

1  All the leaves are brown
2    and the sky is grey
3    I've been for a walk
4    on a winter's day

5    I'd be safe and warm
6    if I was in L.A
7    California Dreamin'
8    on such a winter's day

9    Stopped into a church
10    I passed along the way
11    Well, I got down on my knees
12    and I pretend to pray

13    You know the preacher likes the cold
14    He knows I'm gonna stay
15    California Dreamin'
16    on such a winter's day

17    All the leaves are brown
18    and the sky is grey
19    I've been for a walk
20    on a winter's day

21    If I didn't tell her
22    I could leave today
23    California Dreamin'
24    on such a winter's day

² Music by John Phillips; words by John Phillips and Michelle Phillips
Adjustments to Pronunciation in Connected Speech – Teacher’s Guide

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**Exercise:**

Based on the following rules, underline the places in the song lyric on the following page where you think pronunciation adjustments are likely to occur.

**Linking consonant to vowel**

**Rule 1** When a word ends in two consonants and the next begins with a vowel, the final consonant sounds like it is the initial consonant of the following word:

*Send it* sounds like *sen·dit*  
*Camp out* sounds like *cam·pout*

**Rule 2** When a word ends in a single consonant and the next begins with a vowel, the consonant straddles the two syllables:

*Push up*  
*Stop it*  
*Come in*  
*Take off*

**Linking vowel to vowel**

**Rule 3** When a word ending in /iy/, /ey/, /ay/, or /ɔ/ is followed by another word beginning with a vowel, the two words are connected by a /y/glide:

*Be‿a sport*  
*Play‿a game*  
*Tie‿it up*  
*Employ‿a professional*

**Rule 4** When a word ending in /uw/, /ow/, or /aw/ is followed by another word beginning with a vowel, the two words are connected by a /w/ glide.

*through‿it all*  
*slow‿and steady*  
*How‿are you?*

**Linking consonant to consonant**

**Rule 5** When a stop is followed by another stop or affricate, the first stop is not released or aspirated:

*Hot‿dog*  
*Back‿door*  
*Bad‿judgment*  
*Sick‿child*

**Rule 6** If the consonants (whether a stop or not) are identical, the consonant is somewhat lengthened. The two consonants are not articulated separately:

*Keep‿practicing*  
*less‿serious*  
*hot‿tea*  
*common‿names*

**Deletion of consonant**

**Rule 7** The final /d/ or /t/ disappears from a consonant cluster at the end of a word when followed by a word that begins with a consonant.³

*East‿side*  
*blind‿man*  
*wild‿boar*

Based on the rules from the previous page, underline the places in the song lyric where you think pronunciation adjustments are likely to occur.

³ Per Celce-Murcia et al: “...when the second word begins with /w, h, y, r/, no deletion occurs...[and] some consonant clusters with final /t/ or /d/ never simplify: /nt, lt, rt, rd/...”
Richard Walker

California Dreamin'\(^4\)

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26 and the sky is grey
27 I've been for a walk
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29 I'd be safe and warm
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35 Well, I got down on my knees
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46 I could leave today
47 California Dreamin'
48 on such a winter's day

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